reduce the incidence of lock-outs through preventive mediation, conciliation and arbitration. Penalties for illegal lock-outs are proposed to be made more stringent in the amendments proposed to the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

Harassment to passengers at ISBT, Delhi

2284. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Inter-State Bus Terminal in Delhi has become a hot bed for thieves, anti-social elements and unlicenced/unauthorised tea shops restaurants and Bus company offices;

(b) if so, whether Government attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in 'Sandhya Vir Arjun' of 6th June, 1988 reporting harassment to passengers and visitors at the ISBT, Delhi; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) DDA has denied that ISBT, Delhi has become a hot-bed for thieves, anti-social elements and unlicenced/unauthorised tea restaurant and Bus company offices. The contention of DDA is that on the basis of incident reported in the 'Vir Arjun' dated the 6th June, 1988, it is difficult to conclude that there is no law governing the fixation of prices of commodities. Law merely requires display of prices of commodities offered for sale. Consumer Protection Act, 1986 has sufficient safeguards to protect the interests of consumer, who has been either over-charged or supplied sub-standard items, because ISBT Management takes every possible care to ensure that prices of commodities are displayed.

Shortage of houses in the country

2285. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the latest official estimates, shortage of houses in the country has gone upto 90 million units;

(b) whether this shortage has resulted due to lack of an integrated policy to deal with the housing problem; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to solve the housing problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) As per the latest estimates of the National Buildings Organisation the Housing shortage in the country as on 1-3-88, is of the order of 28.5 million dwelling units.

(b) The existing shortage of houses in the country cannot be attributed to the absence of an integrated policy. Over the years various housing schemes and programmes incorporated in the successive Five Year Plans are being implemented. In spite of this the gap between demand and supply of housing has been due to the increase in population, urban migration. Keeping in view the rapidly increasing dimensions and complexities of the housing problem, Government is seized of the pressing need for a clear enunciation of a comprehensive National Housing Policy, expounding the main objectives, priorities and strategies for promoting a sustained development of housing. The National Housing Policy has since been formulated by the Government and introduced in both the Houses of Parliament.

(c) The following major steps are indicated:—

(i) The Public Sector Outlay for housing has been raised from Rs. 1490.87 crores in the 6th Plan to Rs. 2458.21 crores in the 7th Plan.

(ii) A National Housing Bank has been set up to promote the flow of institutional finance to the housing sector.

(iii) The norms of income eligibility ceiling cost of construction, and ceiling of Government loan assistance for various social housing schemes have been enhanced.

(iv) Construction of houses for Scheduled Tribes / Scheduled Castes and freed bonded labour through the Indira Awas Yojna.

(v) Provision of house sites-cum-construction assistance to rural landless labour.

(vi) Provision of sites and services and built units in urban areas for the economically weaker sections, low income groups etc.

(vii) Various loan asistance schemes through HUDCO.

Employment for agricultural labour

2286. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the findings of a sub-committee of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry of Labour as reported in the 'Times of India' dated the ninth April, 1988 that for most of the estimated seven crore agricultural labour, employment is not available for more than 70 days in a year in unirrigated areas and for more than 120 days in irrigated areas and there too. many times without getting the minimum wages; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) what are the suggestions made by the sub-committee to improve the prevalent conditions of the agricultural labour in the country and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) and (b) The Sub-Committee of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Labour for Studying and Reporting on the Problems of Unorganised Workers in Agriculture Sector presented its Report on the 12th December, 1987.

The suggestions / recommendations made by the Sub-Committee are given in the enclosed statement. (*See* below). Some of the recommendations made by the Sub-Committee are the same as Government's existing policy and programmes. Moreover, since most of the recommenadtions made by the Sub-Committee pertain to the State Governments these have been forwarded to them for their consideration. Government have already set up a National Commission on Rural Labour to look into the problems of rural labour which also includes agricultural labour. Most of the recommendations made by the Sub-Committee are covered by the terms of reference of the Commission.

Statement

Suggestions|Recommendations of the Sub-Committee

I. MINIMUM WAGES

(1) The minimum wages in agriculture should be revised every two years or on a rise of 50 points of the Consumer Price Index Number.